

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) An electrical receptacle for receiving conductive male prongs of an external plug comprising
a housing having a plurality of prong receiving openings,
terminal means mounted within said housing,
said terminal means including a plurality of electrical contact elements for
creating an electrical connection with a respective prong inserted into said plurality of
openings, [[and]]
said plurality of electrical contacts being positioned within said housing to
establish electrical with a male plug when a respective prong is substantially fully
inserted into said housing and to prevent an electrical connection to be established when a
respective prong is only partially inserted into said housing[.].
said plurality of openings include at least one pair of spaced openings for
receiving the spaced prongs of a respective male plug,
said plurality of electrical contacts each include a pair of spaced conductive
elements for contacting a respective prong, and
said spaced conductive elements being a pair of generally U-shaped contact slots
for receiving a respective prong of a male plug when fully inserted in said openings said
pair of U-shaped contact slot being integrally formed on a terminal member.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (original) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 1 further comprising locking means for releasably locking a prong of the male plug inserted into said electrical contact with a respective one of said plurality of electrical contacts.

11. (original) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 10 wherein said locking means includes a locking element for engaging the prong of the male plug inserted for said electrical connection.

12. (original) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 11 wherein said locking means includes an actuator for locking and releasing the male prong.

13. (original) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 12 wherein the actuator includes an external portion extending through said housing, said external portion providing external access to lock and release the male prong.

14. (original) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 13 wherein said locking means includes an open slot formed on said actuator for receiving said locking element, said open slot having a variable depth for locking and releasing said locking element from engagement with a male prong.

15. (currently amended) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 14 wherein said actuator is moveable along an axis relative to said housing lying generally parallel to the insert prong.

16. (currently amended) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 15 1 wherein said slot includes a longitudinal axis extending parallel to said axis.

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (currently amended) The electrical receptacle according to Claim [[23]] 29

wherein

said locking element is a ball.

25. (cancelled)

26. (cancelled)

27. (cancelled)

28. (currently amended) The electrical receptacle according to Claim [[27]] 29

wherein said actuator element is resiliently biased in one direction.

29. (newly submitted) An electrical locking receptacle comprising
a housing having openings for receiving the inserted prongs with holes of at least
one electrical male plug,

locking means operatively mounted in said housing for alternatively locking and
releasing a male plug received in said housing,

a manually operated actuator member mounted for movement in opposite first and
second directions for locking and releasing the male plug,

said actuator member having an externally accessible actuator element for causing
said movement,

said locking means including a locking element,

said actuator member having a face formed with an open slot disposed adjacent an
inserted prong for receiving said locking element, said slot having first and second
sections, said first section having a shallower depth relative to said face than said second
section, said locking element being positionable in said first section upon movement of
said actuator member in said first direction for urging the locking element into the
punched hole of one of the prongs of the male plug, said locking element being
positionable in said second section upon movement of said actuator member in said
second direction.

30. (newly submitted) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 29 wherein said
first and second sections are interconnected by ramp means.

31. (newly submitted) The electrical locking receptacle according to Claim 29 wherein said actuator member includes a pair of opposite faces, each of said opposite faces having said open slots, each of said open slots receiving a locking element, said locking elements being urged into the holes of the prongs for locking.

32. (newly submitted) The electrical locking receptacle according to Claim 31 wherein said actuator is moveable between the two prongs of a male plug.

33. (newly submitted) The electrical locking receptacle according to Claim 29 wherein said accessible actuator element is oval in cross section.

34. (newly submitted) The electrical locking receptacle according to Claim 29 wherein said housing has openings for receiving the respective prongs of a pair of electrical male plugs, said housing including a pair of said actuator members mounted for movement adjacent the prongs of a respective male plug.

35. (newly submitted) The electrical locking receptacle according to Claim 29 wherein said extremely positioned actuator is positioned adjacent said openings.

36. (newly submitted) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 1 wherein said terminal includes a base connecting said pair of U-shaped contacts being bent at generally ninety degree angles to said base to receive a respective prong.

37. (newly submitted) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 36 wherein a portion of each of said U-shaped contact slots include a bent over portion to increase strength.

38. (newly submitted) The electrical receptacle according to Claim 36 wherein said terminal includes a bent up connector for connection to an electrical lead.